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## WILL HARLAN RETIRE

### Venerable Justice May Leave Supreme Bench.

### JURIST WIELDS GRACEFUL PEN

### May Have Decided to Devote Remaining Years to Literature—Friends Are Curious to Know Whether the Justice Will Retire or Not.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Up once more has cropped the rumor that John Marshall Harlan, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, is about to resign from the bench. The report gained circulation again this week on the occasion of the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the venerable jurist's ascension to his present place. It is lacking in official confirmation, but it has more of the appearance of truth than its predecessors.

Justice Harlan, white-haired but bright-eyed, erect and vigorous despite his seventy-four years, is noncommittal. He shook his head indulgently when asked pointedly if the current stories were true.

"I can only say that I have not yet determined what I shall do," he said. "I could have retired on full salary on June 1, 1903. Now and then the thought comes to me that I should retire in order that I might do certain work which I cannot well do while on the bench; but when I get close to a determination of the question it occurs to me that my life would be shortened and perhaps become dreary if I should quit the work to which I have become accustomed and in the doing of which I am most happy.

"So, you see, I am undecided in the matter. It may be that my judicial work may end only with my life, unless in the meantime I am informed by those near me and who have the right to advise me that my duty is to give way to a younger man."

The outside duties to which Justice Harlan refers, and which enter so strongly into his consideration of possible retirement, have aroused the curiosity of his friends. It is known that the venerable jurist wields a graceful pen and he may have leanings toward rounding out his ripe career by entering the field of literature. It is generally believed, however, that he contemplates rather the devotion of his remaining years to teaching the law, in which he is so deeply versed.

For many years Justice Harlan has lectured regularly in the Department of Law of the George Washington University. When the university reorganized its departments, creating the College of the Political Sciences, Justice Harlan consented to take the chair of American Constitutional Law. His colleague, Justice David J. Brewer, also is a member of the faculty, occupying the chair of International Law.

Justice Harlan has shown the greatest interest in the development of embryo Daniel Websters. His lectures have become a feature of the university law and diplomatic courses, and, rain or shine, the aged jurist never disappoints his classes. His enthusiasm in the university work is pointed out as one reason why he may be desirous of passing along to the coming generation of lawyers the ripe knowledge he has gained on the Supreme Bench.

Justice Harlan ascended the bench in

1877, when he was forty-four years of age. His appointment came as the direct result of his action in the Republican national convention of the preceding year. He was at the head of the Kentucky delegation and at a critical period in the proceedings he brought about the nomination of Hayes by causing the elimination of Brissot, switching his delegation to the Hayes' standard. Blaine, by reason of this, was defeated for the nomination by seventeen votes.

Within a few months after the inauguration of President Hayes, the chief executive rewarded Mr. Harlan by his appointment. He has been an honored and conspicuous member of the tribunal ever since.

## FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

(Continued from Page 1)

what foreign articles his baggage contained and immediately thereafter searching his baggage to see whether or not he told the truth under oath. The department decided that these two features could be eliminated with no detriment to the revenues. A new system was accordingly adopted which provided for the distribution of declarations to passengers in the early part of the voyage to this country, to be made out by them at their leisure. The declaration itself was revised and simplified. These declarations are now collected by some officer of the ship held responsible both by the steamship company and the department for seeing that such a written statement is received for each passenger, and then handed over to the customs officers on the arrival of the ship at port. In this way the passenger makes out his own statement, without haste and without being required to make oath of any character.

## Amend Banking Laws.

It might be regarded as worth while to consider the effect of amending the laws so that the country might be divided into geographical or commercial sections, with provision for the retention with each section of a larger proportion of the bank reserves required to be held against deposits in the national banks of such section. The result of this would be, taking present conditions, that the banks in the three central reserve cities would lose a considerable amount, and this amount would be transferred to banks in the reserve cities located in the different sections and would necessarily be held by them as cash. This addition to the available and actual cash in banks outside of the central reserve cities would constitute an element of strength, which, in times of stress, might aid materially in diminishing the violence of financial disturbances. Such a provision of law as this would not affect in any way the depositing by national banks of their unemployed capital, outside of their reserves, wherever they could best use it.

## Emergency Measures.

During the summer the gradual increasing rate of interest charged for call money, time money, and discounts of commercial bills indicated a progressive diminution in the amount of available cash. Accordingly, it was decided August 23, 1907, to make each week substantial deposits in the different sections of the country, with the particular object of facilitating the fall movement of the crops. In his announcement of this plan the Secretary of the Treasury said:

"This action is taken to meet the

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commercial and industrial needs of the country at this season and is believed to be preferable to waiting until a time of acute stringency, when the only alternative would be a large general deposit. The latter policy the Secretary desires to supersede by one which shall have as its ultimate object the adjustment of the operations of the Treasury Department, as rapidly as may be practicable under existing law, in such manner as shall preclude their being in any sense a disturbing factor in the business world."

These distributions were continued weekly until the aggregate amount of \$20,000,000 had been so distributed. Notwithstanding this measure, there was a constantly increasing stringency in the monetary centers, which culminated in the forced suspensions of several important institutions.

Prior to this crisis the shipments of currency to the west by eastern banks for crop-moving purposes had been insignificant. There had been no important shipments of gold abroad, so the monetary stringency seemed to be due, in large measure, to the hoarding of funds by owners thereof who had become apprehensive of their financial safety. As the crisis approached the Department adopted the strongest measures to give material assistance. Within four days there was transferred from the Treasury to the banks the sum of \$35,000,000.

## HEARS CONFESSION

### Detective Listens to the Story of Train Robbers.

## ROBS GREAT NORTHERN TRAIN

### John Worthington, Last of Trio Who Robbed the Oriental Limited of Nearly \$50,000 Tells of His Complicity in the Crime.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.—Peter F. Roller, who is said to have been an Agent of Secret Service Agent Wm. J. Burns and is now held here on a charge of larceny, has secured a confession from John Worthington of complicity in the robbery of the Great Northern train in Montana, several months ago in which between \$50,000 and \$60,000 in coin and currency was stolen. The confession is in the hands of the local police, held on instructions from Roller in the hope that he may obtain a portion of the reward offered for the capture of the train robbers.

Roller secured the confession from Worthington while the two were together in the city prison at Portland, Roller at the time being en route to this city in custody of Detective Richard McSorley of the local police force.

Worthington has been held in the jail for some time, suspected of complicity in the train robbery. Three men were engaged in the crime, two of whom were captured with incriminating evidence, and the confession of Worthington runs the last of the trio to earth. The train robbery to which Worthington confessed was a daring one. Three men, two of whom are now in jail in Montana, where Worthington is shortly to be taken, compelled the engineer to run ahead with the engine and then they blew open with dynamite the safe in which the treasure was being transported. The railroad company and express company offered large rewards for their arrest and it is a share of this Roller hopes to secure because of the confession he wormed out of Worthington.

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